

ability be found for well capitalised and well worked quartz and hydraulic gold mining undertakings, such as these contemplated by the Casiar Central Co.

A GROWL FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

It is said that Americans are beginning to fight a little shy of our B. C. mining camps. Thus the *Spokane Chronicle* says: "A number of prominent mining men of this city were this morning discussing the new laws relating to mining in British Columbia. It was the consensus of opinion of the group that it meant the exclusion of nearly every American corporation and mining man doing business in the Kootenay country from this side of the line. General Warren, who was one of the party, remarked that he had five prospecting parties out in the British Columbia country. Two of these he had already notified to return to Spokane, and as soon as he could locate the other three he would also order them to return. Similar action will in all probability be taken by the other Spokane mining men, who say they will not operate in the Kootenay under the provisions of the new law." There is doubtless a good deal of bluff in these statements, which probably, therefore, imply nothing very serious.

Our American friends are welcome to make good profits by our mines in all legitimate ways, but British Columbians will continue to make their own laws, which, though often not so good as they might be, are usually better and invariably better administered than those of the Western States. American investors will always have justice done them in B. C., and being men of "horse sense," are not likely to abandon good opportunities when here secured or attainable. But even were they to cease operating to so large an extent as now in British Columbia, our Province and our mines and mining would yet survive and develop, for there is ample British, Canadian, French and other capital available and ready to enter British Columbia so soon as its owners—who are somewhat conservative at first—feel fully assured, as they soon will be, as to our many and great opportunities. It is but reasonable that foreign mining companies, operating largely in B. C. and often securing also much of our too limited home capital, should be required to have at least a properly equipped business office in the Province.

suffered to remain annexes of Spokane. They have already several, and will have more large, active and prosperous mine organising and trade distributing centres of their own. It is, moreover, but right that organizations, advantaged by British law and order and operating profitably in British territory, should be made conveniently amenable, in need, to British jurisdiction.

This is a leading motive for one recent change in our mining companies' law, and others also are not unreasonable, more especially those which are notably staying the flood of wildcat ventures. American objections to mining law changes in B. C. must be made, to be sustained, on their intrinsic merits, and not based on a desire to carry every advantage across the line.

MORE MAIL COMPLAINTS.

The Dominion reaps a goodly return from British Columbia excess payments into the national treasury, yet the requirements of the Province are still less than half met and this with reluctant slowness. Last week the *MINING CRITIC* spoke of the need of better mail facilities for Lillooet. And now we have to note that other mine districts of ours are also most inadequately inconvenienced in this respect. Thus the Big Bend mine country of North Kootenay has enjoyed no mail service since March, the people of the district having, in consequence, to travel a distance of 140 miles, even unto Revelstoke, in order to obtain their letters and other mail matter. Meanwhile, in the busy Lardeau country the mail service is a "truly rural" one of a single delivery per week. Thus are easily avoidable hindrances placed in the way of a Provincial development that contributes to Ottawa ever-increasing revenue returns. As the Revelstoke *Herald* puts it, "the lack of an up-to-date mail service is keeping 'the whole Kootenay country back today.' So, too, Lillooet and other important districts, as our contemporary might well have added, "in 'the interests of a peddling economy, as short-sighted in policy as it is disastrous in results." As things are, much as we boast of confederation, the advantages of our national unity are for us at present sadly lessened by lack of breadth of departmental views at Ottawa.